THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 25, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 24 • LATE CITY EDITION

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

AI TO HIRE 900 PILOTS, 4,200 CABIN CREW

The announcement comes as Tata Group-owned airline expands its operations with addition of new routes and aircraft. The announcement comes days after the carrier placed a massive order to buy 470 aircraft from Boeing and Airbus. Fresh hiring will add to the 1,900 cabin crew members the airline hired in the last nine months. Cabin crew trainees will be required to undergo a 15-week training programme, which includes extensive classroom and in-flight training in Mumbai | **P13**

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Priority for All-round Development
A new direction for State's progress
Special thrust on Job Creation, Higher Capital Investment, Empowerment of Women and Youth, SC/STs and Backward Classes
NAVA KARNATAKA FOR NAVA BHARAT
Rs. 3 lakh crore plus budget
Revenue-surplus budget
No new taxes or increase in taxes
State finances were restored through a steadfast commitment towards fiscal consolidation and discipline
Budget with a clear plan for fiscal stability and consolidation
BUDGET 2023-24
Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
karnataka information

INDIAN RED FLAG AGAINST N-ATTACK WORKED: U.S.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday credited India and China with possibly stalling a potential use of nuclear weapons by Russia in Ukraine.

In an interview to *The Atlantic* on the first anniversary of the Ukraine war, Blinken said both nations had "a little bit more influence with Russia these days". He indicated that India and China may have told Russian President Vladmir Putin directly that they opposed any use of nuclear weapons on Ukranian soil.

"There was language coming out of Moscow that suggested that he would look to the use of tactical nuclear weapons. But we urged, I think successfully, that other countries might have a little bit more influence with Russia — like India and China — to engage him directly about their absolute opposition to any use of nuclear weapons," he said.

"And we know that they conveyed those messages, and I think that had some effect. Something we always have to look at, but again, the track record to date suggests that the escalation that some feared has, at least to now, not happened," Blinken said.

He added that India was on a trajectory away from alignment with Russia and moving into partnership with the US and other countries.

Blinken confirmed he will visit India for a meeting of the G20 foreign ministers in March. Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang and his Russian counter part Sergey Lavrov will participate in the meeting.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (L) holds a flag kissed by a serviceman during a ceremony at St Sophia Square in Kyiv, to mark the first anniversary of the brutal Russian invasion of the neighbouring country | AP

Delhi abstains in UNGA on Ukraine resolution

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

INDIA on Friday abstained in the UN General Assembly on a resolution that underscored the need to reach a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine in line with the principles of the UN Charter.

"We will always call for dialogue and diplomacy as the only viable way out. While we take note of the stated objective of the resolution, given its inherent limitations in reaching our desired goal of securing lasting peace, we are constrained to abstain," said India's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj.

The draft resolution got 141 votes in its favour, seven against it, while 32, including India, abstained.

"The conflict has resulted in the loss of countless lives and misery, particularly for women, children and the elderly... Reports of attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure are also deeply worrying," said Kamboj.

However, is the global community anywhere near a possible solution acceptable to both sides, she wondered. "Can any process that does not involve either of the two sides, ever lead to a credible and meaningful solution? Has the UN system, and particularly its principal organ, the UN Security Council, based on a 1945-world construct, not been rendered ineffective to address contemporary challenges to global peace and security?' Kamboj caustically observed.

INSIDE YEAR OF UKRAINIAN SURPRISES FOR RUSSIA | U.S. IMPOSES FRESH SANCTIONS **P12**

Nomination alone, no CWC poll

Steering Committee meet authorises Kharge to pick names for top decision-making body

PREETHA NAIR @ Nava Raipur

ENDING days of speculation, the Congress leadership on Friday decided not to conduct elections to the Congress Working Committee (CWC) and instead authorise party president Mallikarjun Kharge to nominate all members of the highest decision-making body.

The decision was taken by the Steering Committee because of the prevailing political situation in the country and the Congress role as the main opposition party. Implicit in it was the admission that CWC elections could create bad blood and shift the focus away from the big picture of charting poll strategies and alliances.

Sources told this newspaper that leaders like Digvijaya Singh, Ajay Maken and Abhishek Manu Singhvi strongly pitched for election to the CWC at the Steering Committee meeting, while several senior leaders argued against it citing the upcoming state and Lok Sabha elections. Though senior leader P Chidambaram openly demanded CWC elections last week, he did not speak at the meeting, said another leader.

Significantly, all three members of the Gandhi family—Sonia, Rahul, and Priyanka stayed away from the Steering Committee meeting, which was held in the morning. Rahul and Sonia arrived in the afternoon at the Nava Raipur venue of the plenary session.

Briefing the media, AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the decision to not hold polls to the CWC was taken unanimously. "We had a two-and-a-half hour discussion on the issue. The overwhelming view was that keeping in view the political challenges facing the country and the Congress party in the capacity as the main opposition, almost all 45 members present at the meeting unanimously decided to authorise the Congress president to nominate members to the CWC," he said.

As first reported by this newspaper on February 17, the party decided to give permanent CWC seats to former Congress presidents (Sonia and Rahul) and its ex-prime ministers (Manmohan Singh).

While the plenary session is expected to come up with a political resolution on opposition unity with Congress as the pivot, a senior leader who participated in the draft committee meeting told this paper that he was disappointed by the six resolutions lined up for adoption. "I was looking forward to specific inputs on opposition alliances but the resolutions were wishy-washy. I was hoping that the party will take the lead in the alliance as they said earlier. But the resolution doesn't speak of anything," he said.

The party will also amend its 16 articles and 32 rules oin its constitution. "The most important one is to provide 50% quota to SC, ST, OBC, minorities, women, and youth below the age of 50 years in the CWC," Ramesh said.

Woman hit with sickle for feeding strays

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

FEEDING stray dogs proved costly for a woman techie as she was attacked with a sickle by two men at Jigani in Anekal taluk last Sunday evening. The victim, Meera Tiwari (54), a resident of Varun Apartments in Sai Brindavan Layout, was taken to Nimhans where she received treatment.

"There are 17 strays dogs inside the layout and 16 strays outside the layout. I feed them from my own expenses. This has become an issue for some people residing in the locality. On the evening of the attack, the dogs started following me as I went to a nearby provision store to buy eggs for them. The two accused, who were sitting at a shed, followed me and started abusing me for feeding the dogs," Meera said.

One of the accused was holding a sickle while the other was carrying some other weapon. After snatching the victim's spectacles and smashing it, the duo attacked her. On seeing the victim's mother coming towards them, the accused fled. The victim dialled 112 emergency number and called the police who on reaching told her to first obtain treatment. **P3**

> Leaders from our own party create problems when stray dogs are killed. Even the media takes up incidents of attacks on stray dogs.
>
> MP Pratap Simha

You stop reporting, we'll deal with stray dogs: MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

"YOU (media) stop reporting and remain silent on stray dogs and allow us to take some action to resolve the stray dog problem," said MP Pratap Simha, here on Friday.

After meeting officials at the Mysuru City Corporation, Simha, while talking to reporters, mentioned the horrific incident in Telangana where a five-year-old child was mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs. He said that worryingly, stray dogs have increased in Mysuru.

"We are unable to take any action because of animal lovers. They realise the problem when stray dogs bite their kids. Feeding stray dogs will not bring any good and it is not as big a social service as they project it. We have to cull stray dogs to solve the problem," he said. **P3**

Only inclusive agenda can win back confidence, says Modi at G20 meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

ADDRESSING the first meeting of the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under India's G20 Presidency via video message on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the creation of an inclusive agenda is essential to tide over the varied issues affecting the world. "Global economic leadership can win back the confidence of the world only by creating an inclusive agenda," the Prime Minister reiterated.

Stressing on the theme of India's G20 Presidency — One Earth, One Family, One Future — which looks to promote an inclusive vision, Modi stated, "It is up to the custodians of the leading economies and monetary systems of the world to bring back stability, confidence and growth to the global economy... Focus your discussions on the most vulnerable citizens of the world."

Casting the spotlight on the vibrancy of the Indian economy, Modi highlighted the optimism of Indian producers and consumers about the future of this economy and hoped member participants would draw inspiration from it, while transmitting the same positive spirit at the global level. **P4**

PM Narendra Modi addresses a G20 meeting via video conference | EXPRESS

Stress on technology

Modi stressed on the growing dominance of technology in the finance realm, and recalled how digital payments enabled seamless transactions during the pandemic, and urged participants to explore technological power | **P4**

EXPRESS READ

Centre's nod for Mahadayi Water Authority office in Panaji

Belagavi: Weeks after giving approval to the revised DPR of the Kalasa-Banduri project to enable state government to start work on diversion of Mahadayi river water into Karnataka from Goa, the Centre has decided to establish the office of Mahadayi Water Authority in Panaji. Goa CM said the office will help his state in preventing diversion of water from Mahadayi river | **P5**

Congress' third promise: Free 10 kg rice to BPL cardholders

Bengaluru: After promising financial assistance of Rs 2,000 to women heads of households and 200 units of free power to all houses, Congress on Friday announced providing 10 kg of rice free per month to BPL cardholders under the Anna Bhagya scheme. Providing 10 kg free rice will eliminate hunger, said KPCC president DK Shivakumar | **P6**

PM to inaugurate Mys-B'luru e-way on March 11

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the newly-built Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway and also take part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the proposed four-lane express road from Mysuru to Kushalnagar, at an event to be held in Mandya on March 11.

Confirming this, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha said the decision was taken at a meeting he held with officials here on Friday.

"As the project was completed during PM Modi's tenure, it would be appropriate that he himself throws it open to the public," Simha said.

When asked if he would take the plunge into state politics, Simha said that he wishes to continue as a parliamentarian till 2029 under the leadership of Modi.

"I am here not to do long-term politics but to develop my constituency and make it a model for other constituencies in a span of 15 years."

Veedol
Engine Oils
www.veedolindia.com
YOUR PARTNER TO A HAPPY RIDE!
USE VEEDOL TAKE-OFF 4T PREMIUM FOR EFFORTLESS EASY RIDING
Synthetic engine oil for all new generation motorcycles
Fuel Efficiency Enhancer
Fully Compatible with BS-VI Engines
Saves Petrol
More Horse Power